

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 00809 261357Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /018 W
-----261402Z 055306 /55

R 260932Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 926
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0809

USIAC

NAIROBI FOR RLC WHITTEN
PRETORIA FOR REA METCALF

E.O. 11652: GDS
SUBJECT: FUNSANI DETENTION

REF: A. LILONGWE 766-C B. LILONGWE 664-C

1. AS A RESULT OF AMBASSADOR'S 19 MAY 77 MEETING, PRESIDENT
BANDKA INDICATED HE WOULD RELEASE FUNSANI FROM DETENTION AS "A
PERSONAL FAVOR" TO AMBASSADOR WITH PROVISIO THAT USG GET HIM
OUT OF THE COUNTRY. AMBASSADOR ACCEPTED BANDA'S CONDITION AS OUT-
LINED REFTTEL A. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO RPT NO FOLLOW-UP ACTION
BY GOMGN BUT BANDA INDICATED TIMING OF RELEASE WOULD NOT RPT
NOT BE EXACT.

2. ALL CONTACTS WITH GOM BOTH AT PRESIDENTIAL LEVEL AND POLICE
LEVEN TEND TO CONFIRM THE PREMISE THAT FUNSANI'S DIFFICULTY
DERIVED FROM ROUTINE PERFORMANCE OF HIS USIS DUTIES. HE MET
PROF. SIMONS IN APRIL 1976 AT A GOM-SPONSORED ARCHIVISTS
CONFERENCE. FUNSANI WAS OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF USIS AND
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SIMONS WAS OBSERVER WITH OFFICIAL ZAMBIAN DELEGATION. FOLLOWING
CONFERENCE, SIMONS REQUESTED AND RECEIVED FROM USIS BLANTYRE
INFO ON AMERICAN LABOR AND/OR LABOR LAW. SUBSEQUENTLY SIMONS
WROTE FUNSANI (DATE UNKNOWN) THANKING HIM FOR PREVIOUS HELP
AND REQUESTING NEW INFO ON SENSITIVE (FBR GOM) AREA OF MALAWIAN
EXPORT LABOR. LETTER, INTERCEPTED BY POLICE BEFORE DELIVERY
TO FSNSANI, SEEMS TO BE MAJOR CAUSE OF DIFFICULTY.

3. AS REPORTED (REFTEL B) POLICE COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS IMPLIED THAT SIMONS CAME TO MAWAWI SPECIFICALLY TO MAKE CONSPIRATORIAL CONTACT WITH FUNSANI. FKTS THAT FUNSANI'S PARTICIPATION AT CONFERENCE WAS PROBABLY HAPPENSTANCE, AND CERTAINLY NOT DISCRETIONARY ON HIS PART; THAT SUMONS HIMSELF WAS ADMITTED BY GOM (WHO PAID CONFERENCE EXPENSES) AND CAME AS PART OF ZAMBIAN DELEGATION; THAT "INCRIMINATING" LETTER NEVER ACTUALLY REACHED FUNSANI, APPARENTLY DO NOT RPT NOT ALTER POLICE VIEW THAT FUNSANI SOMEHOW SHOULD HAVE HAD PRESCIENCE TO IDENTIFY SIMONS AS GOM ENEMY (ALTHOUGH THEY THENSELVES FAILED TO DO SO AT THE TIME) AND AVOID HIM.

4. IN THE ABUEENCE OF ANY ADDITIONAL INFO OR FURTHER ENLIGHTENMENT BY GOM LOGICAL CONCLUSION REMAINS THAT FUNSANI HAS BEEN VICTIMIZED FOR NO RPT NO VALID REASON WHILE PERFORMING NORMAL DUTIES AS A USIS EMPLOYEE. IT SEEMS EQUALLY LOGICAL THAT FACTS OF THE CASE ADD UP TO FORMIDABLE ARGUMENT FOR USG TO PROVIDE OR HELP SECURE MAXIMUM POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE FOR FUNSANI. ASSUMING BANDA MAKES GOOD HIS PROMISE, FUNSANI'S SOLE OPTIONS NOW ARE TO STAY IN JAIL IN MALAWI FOR AN UNSPECIFIED TERM (LIKELY TO BE LONG GIVEN BANDA'S EGO REACTION TO AMBASSADOR'S APPROACH) OR RELOCATING ELSEWHERE. FUNSANI HAS THUS BEEN RENDERED A DE FACTO POLITICAL REFUGEE BY VIRTUE OF HIS SERVICE TO USG. GIVEN HIS U.S. EDUCATION, BACKGROUND AND PLANS, RELOCATION TO U.S. SEEMS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE. HOWEVER, ALTERNATIVE COULD BE FINDING APPROPRIATE SLOT FOR FUNSANI IN ANOTHER USIS POST IF AFRICA.

5. FYI: FUNSANI APPARENTLY HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH STANFORD
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UNIV. IN HOPES OF RESUMING HIS EDUCATION AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL; BUT AM NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF HIS PROGRESS IN THIS DIRECTION.

6. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, REQUEST TO KNOW WHAT RESOURCES MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO ASSIST FUNSANI IN DEPARTING MALAWI AND RELOCATING IN U.S
POLICHETTI

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: PRISONERS RELEASE, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
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